

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and amend claims 1-3 and 5 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing nitrogen trifluoride, ~~comprising fluorination of nitrogen-containing compounds~~ by the fluorination of urea and products of urea decomposition with elemental fluorine, ~~wherein said fluorination is carried out~~ in anhydrous hydrogen fluoride at a temperature of -20°C to 0°C and with the molar ratio of said fluorine to ~~said starting nitrogen-containing compounds~~ the urea and products of urea decomposition of not over 3.

2. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the concentration of said ~~starting nitrogen-containing compounds~~ urea and products of urea decomposition in said anhydrous hydrogen fluoride is 20-50% by weight.

3. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein ~~said starting nitrogen-containing compounds are selected from the group comprising urea and products of decomposition thereof~~ the fluorination is carried out at a temperature of -20°C to -10°C and with the molar ratio of fluorine to the urea and products of urea decomposition of not over 0.5 till the moment of nitrogen trifluoride in the fluorination waste gases.

4. (cancel)

5. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~4~~ 3, wherein after the appearance of ~~said~~ nitrogen trifluoride in ~~said~~ the fluorination waste gases the ~~said~~ fluorination is carried out ~~preferably at a~~ in the temperature range of  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that the correct status of the pending claims is now indicated in the response and that the response and amendment filed May 25, 2004 is now in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121. The Legal Instruments Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned attorney if he has any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

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